



American Red Cross

National Headquarters
Washington, DC 20006

FACT SHEET

AMERICAN RED CROSS

AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

BACKGROUND

The American Red Cross AIDS Prevention Program for Youth is a family, school and community based program involving students, parents, teachers, school officials and community leaders. The program is designed to provide youth with information and skills to reduce their risk of contracting the AIDS virus.

GOALS

The goals of the Red Cross AIDS Prevention Program for Youth are to--

- o Enhance youths' knowledge about AIDS, encourage discussion among peers and parents, and discourage high-risk behavior.
- o Improve parents' ability to discuss AIDS knowledgeably with their children.
- o Increase teachers' capacity to deliver AIDS education.
- o Enlarge educators' understanding of the need for AIDS education.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The American Red Cross AIDS Prevention Program for Youth will achieve these goals by making educational materials and training available to students, parents, teachers and school officials, youth and community groups through local chapters of the American Red Cross.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The AIDS Prevention Program for Youth consists of--

- o A Letter From Brian, a 30-minute video
 - student workbook
 - parent's brochure
 - teacher's/leader's guide
- o Don't Forget Sherrie, a 32-minute video and discussion guide
- o Answers About AIDS, a 16-minute video and discussion guide

A Letter From Brian portrays four high school students who learn that "the AIDS virus doesn't care what color we are, what sex we are, or if we are straight or gay. AIDS is everyone's concern." The dramatic story includes factual narration provided by actor Michael Warren and by U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

Don't Forget Sherrie is a powerful, hard-hitting drama focusing on a group of black and urban teenagers responding to the spread of the AIDS virus, as well as questioning their own values and behaviors. The dramatic story includes factual narration provided by actor Michael Warren and by U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

Answers About AIDS complements both *A Letter From Brian* and *Don't Forget Sherrie*, and features the U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, fielding some very important and pointed questions from teenagers interested in learning more about AIDS. His answers are as straightforward as the students' questions.

All components of the program, which can be integrated into school curricula, demonstrate to youth that they can avoid contracting AIDS by saying NO to sex and NO to drugs.

AMERICAN RED CROSS POSITION ON ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The American Red Cross supports the following principles--

- o For a variety of health, social, and economic reasons, saying NO to sexual activity is highly recommended for all single teenagers.
- o Education regarding sexuality should be provided within the family, with schools and community organizations supplementing parental education while encouraging parent-child communication. Instruction should be provided for parents and teenagers.
- o Adolescent sexuality education should be based on positive values that rest on religious, ethical, legal, and moral foundations.